

**Amendment 35 to the Fishery Management Plan for the
Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
(Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35)**

***Frequently Asked Questions
May 2016***

What is the purpose of Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35?

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 will:

- Remove dog snapper, black snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster from the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan to ensure that only snapper-grouper species requiring federal management are included in the fishery management plan and to create regulatory consistency across jurisdictional boundaries. These species have extremely low landings in state and federal waters, and regulations governing their harvest differ among the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and Florida state jurisdictional management areas. The State of Florida has indicated it intends to extend Florida regulations for these species into federal waters if they are removed from the Fishery Management Plan, to create a consistent regulatory environment.
- Revise regulations for the use of golden tilefish longline endorsements. Specifically, Amendment 35 will revise regulations for the use of longline endorsements to ensure that fishery participants holding longline endorsements are not allowed to fish under both the hook-and-line quota and the longline quota within the same fishing year. This was the original intent of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council when it implemented the longline endorsement program for golden tilefish under Amendment 18B to the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan (78 FR 23858, April 23, 2013).

Why is Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 necessary?

- Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 is necessary to simplify federal management of the snapper-grouper fishery without reducing protection for species rarely caught in states other than Florida, make regulations consistent across jurisdictional boundaries, and clarify regulations for commercially harvested golden tilefish while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse socioeconomic impacts.

Who will be affected by Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35?

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for snapper-grouper species in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

When will Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 be effective?

- The final rule published on May 23, 2016. Regulations will be effective June 22, 2016.

Where can I get more information on Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 and its rule-making?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries
By Mail: Southeast Regional Office, c/o Nikhil Mehta
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
By FAX: (727) 824-5308
By Phone: (727) 824-5305

- Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 and its Proposed and Final Rules may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/am35/index.html
or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.